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STAR POP&STUFF

REGULAR Hot readers will know how partial our Joe is to Carolyn from *The 411* – and it seems Motty's not alone. Surprisingly he will have to fight off an army of amorous ladies in his quest to find out more about the blonde Teardrops beauty, as he vowed he would do a few weeks ago. A source revealed: "Carolyn has become an unlikely pin-up for lesbians. It's her pretty face they like." And her bootylicious behind, the admiring Joe would no doubt add. May the best man (or woman) win, eh folks...



That's not



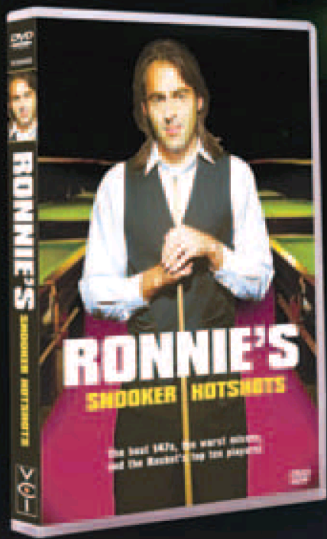
HOT BOT: Geri wowed G-A-Y with her all-action pop routines

Picture: SUZAN VALLACTION/DIGITAL.COM

Picture: STUART ATKINS/REX FEATURES

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Graeme Dott, Crucible 2004

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GOTTA HOT STORY?

JOE MOTT'S hot

Edited by
**KIM
DAWSON**

Geri nice DANCER GETS THE PUSH

GERI Halliwell replaced a dancer on the promotion trail for her new single after she found he'd worked with Emma Bunton.

The raunchy redhead, 32, wowed fans at London's G-A-Y on Saturday with a Roman-themed set and string of costume changes.

But one male shape-throwing talent,

who'd danced with Geri's old **Spice Girls** buddy, was missing.

A source revealed: "The guy was surprised when he got a call from his agent telling him his services were no longer required after he'd already done CD:uk and Top Of The Pops with Geri.

"He knew it wasn't anything to do with his dancing skills. Then he was told it was because he'd danced for Emma."

The chap in question also strutted his stuff with **Kylie**, 36, when she released *Can't Get You Out Of My Head*.

My source said: "Geri has worked so hard on her new album that she wants people to focus on her new songs and not her past.

Bang

"She's still mates with Emma but would like a team around her that are focusing on this project 100%."

Geri looks set to return to the charts with big bang.

The single *Ride It* has already made its mark on the club charts and is definitely set for a top five placing when it's released next Monday.

I reckon it could even hit No.1.

More than 1,000 people had to be turned away when the G-A-Y club night could hold no more eager pop punters.

A clubber told me:



LES DANCE: Geri at G-A-Y

"Geri's performance was absolutely fabulous to watch. You couldn't move it was so crowded.

"It looked like she had some family in as there were lots of older ladies, as well as young fans.

"There were lots of gymnastics and it was like watching Las Vegas showgirls.

"She's looking and sounding better than ever."

NOEL and Liam Gallagher are among the celebs clamouring to catch N*E*R*D's last show of the year. Pharrell and co play the Carling Live gigs in Manchester and London next Sunday and Monday, and the guest list for the Hammersmith Apollo is heaving. Usher, Sophie Ellis Bextor, Natalie Imbruglia, Ian Brown, Estelle and Jade Jagger have asked for VIP tickets. A source said: "The after-show party is sure going to be very interesting." I'll bet.

THONGBIRD

JAMIE CULLUM was bombarded with knickers when he visited America on tour.

The jazz pixie, whose new single, *Everlasting Love* features on the soundtrack to *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*, has confessed the mail-box on his tour bus was stuffed with more than just letters of adoration.

A saucy Yank, it appears, made her feelings known in blatant fashion.

The 24-year-old said: "One fan posted knickers through the postbox on the bus. Maybe she thought I like wearing



BLUE NOTE: Cullum

girls' underwear. I only do that in the mating season."

Careful Jamie, mate, she might take that as a come on.

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CLOWNING AROUND: Ed Simons and Tom Rowlands

Q-TIPPED FOR TOP

THE Chemical Brothers are basing their new video on stylish French flick *La Haine*.

I've got hold of the treatment for the promo to *Galvanise*, which isn't out until January and features 33-year-old US rapper **Q-Tip**.

The track is described as "a full-blooded, pulsing dancefloor anthem" and the video "La Haine meets clowns in da hood".

A young bloke heads for a night on the town decked out in full clown make-up.

Meeting up with his b-boy pals in their baggie trackies and hooded tops the clown lad and his mates get chased for not paying their bus fare and blag it into a club when bouncers are too busy checking the guest list for other punters.

Cool

A dance-off ensues in the club and the video ends with the three clowns being marched out of the venue and handed over to the police after impressing all inside with their ultra-cool moves.

The sensible clown has a tear running down his face but the lead guy is grinning like a Cheshire cat.

All this ties in nicely with the Chemical Brothers' new album, *Push The Button*, which is due out on January 24. Insiders predict the new **Ed Simons** and **Tom Rowlands** record will change the face of dance music for 2005.

DESPITE scaling the dizzy heights at the top of the charts with their self-titled debut album, **Il Divo** aren't looking forward to switching on the Christmas lights in London's Oxford Street tonight. The stage is 20ft high and Seb suffers from vertigo. A source said: "There will be a trial run before hand and if he can't do it, a call to **Paul McKenna** for some hypnotherapy may have to be made."

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STAR NEWS

Tara: I want curves



■ TELLY beauty Tara Palmer-Tomkinson has revealed she would rather be curvy than skinny.

The former It Girl, who will be presenting ITV2's coverage of the new series of I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! admitted she doesn't think being thin is sexy.

■ Tara, 32, who also hates her muscular arms, added: I'm actually attempting to gain weight at the moment - I eat around 10 times a day.

"The minute I lose any weight, I look tired and drawn. It's just not sexy to be too thin.

■ "I definitely want something people can grab hold of. Look at my backside ... there's nothing there. I certainly need more junk in my trunk."

STAND-IN DOCS ON £1,200 A NIGHT

STAND-IN doctors are earning up to £1,200 a night - because GPs don't want to work unsocial hours.

Primary care trusts, which arrange cover for out-of-hours calls, are having to offer huge wages to get doctors to work the graveyard shifts.

GPs used to sort out their own night and weekend cover, but now they can opt out altogether.

And doctors who are prepared to work can demand more than £100 an hour.

Rural areas are worst hit because of a lack of medics and travel problems. But experts are concerned the extra pay is diverting money from reducing waiting lists and buying hospital equipment.

In Wales, the Powys Local Health Board is paying doctors £108 an hour to cover

■ by KATIE BEGLEY

shifts at Machynlleth in Montgomeryshire. John Howard, chief officer of Montgomeryshire Community Health Council, says the board's hands are tied under the new opt-out arrangements.

He said: "This level of pay cannot be sustained. It is clearly an inefficient use of limited NHS funds."

Busy

Across the country health authorities are being forced to increase their hourly rates from £40 to £90. The British Medical Association says nine out of 10 doctors are choosing to opt out of night shifts.

But Dr Andrew Dearden, a Cardiff GP, said: "These doctors are busy, highly qualified professionals doing very unsocial hours."



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CALENDAR HIT: Williams

Robbie is THE hot date

GOLDEN boy David Beckham's days as a top hunk are over, reckon fans who buy pin-up calendars. They have made singer Robbie Williams, 30, their No.1 for 2005 - with Becks sliding to fifth in the sales charts.

It's the first time the 29-year-old England captain - the second best seller in 2004 - has been out of the top three calendar studs.

Last year's No.1, Sir Cliff Richard, 64, is second. He has been in the top three for 25 years.

Surprise

"It's early days," said a spokeswoman for calendar firm Danilo. "But David Beckham's position is a surprise."

There's worse news for singers Ronan Keating and Gareth Gates - both are out of the charts.

●The top 10 based on sales figures so far are: 1 Robbie Williams, 2 Sir Cliff Richard, 3 Jonny Wilkinson, 4 Elvis Presley, 5 David Beckham, 6 Will Young, 7 Eminem, 8 Michael Owen, 9 Colin Farrell, 10 Justin Timberlake.

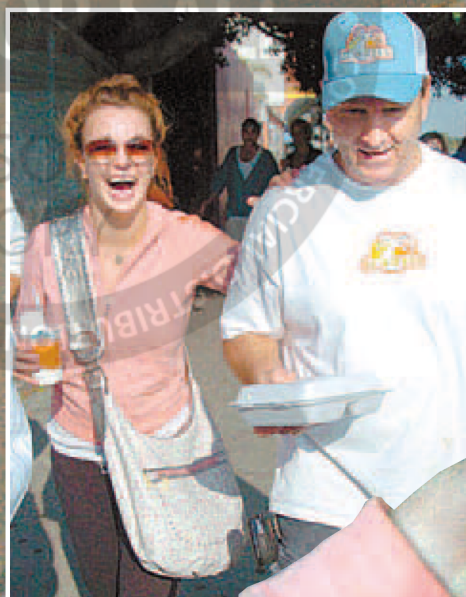
FIFTEEN thousand cans of Carling lager, worth £25,000, were stolen from a lorry while the driver was sleeping in his cab at Cambridge.

BONEY ALONEY

HIT Seventies group Boney M had to cancel a gig at Abingdon, Oxon, after only six of 1,000 seats were sold.

ZITNEY SPEARS

Pictures: PACIFICCOASTNEWS.COM and SPLASH NEWS



THAT HITS THE SPOT: Brit tries to hide her acne - but enjoys dad's takeaway grub, inset

Rash moment for pop babe

IT'S a case of spot the difference for pop beauty Britney Spears.

The chart-topping babe is more used to having hits than zits. But now life in the marriage fast lane - and a heavy smoking habit - look like they've taken their toll on the 22-year-old

■ by MARIANNA PARTASIDES

Toxic singer. She was caught covered in a rash of pimples.

Even a honeymoon break in tropical Fiji with dancer husband Kevin Federline, 26, didn't banish the break-outs. And Britney looked nothing

like the sexy singer her fans fell for when she went to visit her dad Jamie and tried a takeaway and smoothie from his new Venice beach café, JJ Chilli, in Los Angeles.

With all the fast food and fags, her complexion will soon be giving her a complex.



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Seth's back



VIDEO LINK: Seth

EMMERDALE rogue Seth Armstrong is making a Christmas comeback.

Stan Richards, 72, the soap's longest serving actor, has been off ill for 15 months.

His character was moved to Australia and the Christmas Eve episode will feature Seth in a video message to The Woolpack.

Stan said: "It was fantastic to be back and did me better than any medication."



Vera's such a mug

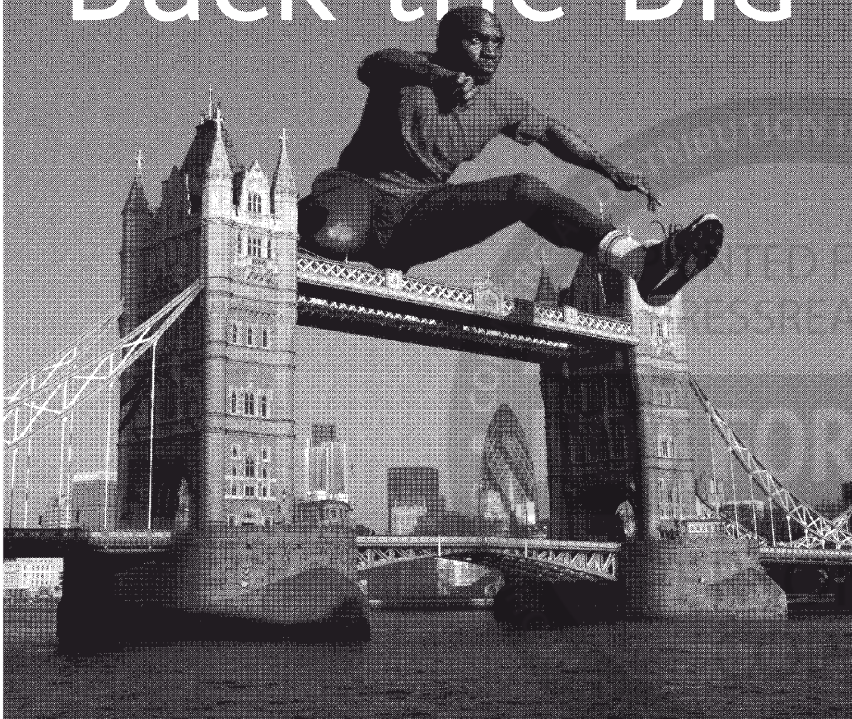
BATTLEAXE Vera Duckworth feels a right royal mug after she's robbed on a shopping trip.

Vera (Liz Dawn, 64) is fooled into thinking Prince Charles is nipping round for a cuppa by scheming husband Jack (Bill Tarmey, 63).

She gets mugged while out shopping for a new outfit for the event and ends up in hospital.



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I SAY! FRED GAMBLES SHOP AWAY

BUMBLING Fred Elliott is set to sensationally gamble away his family butcher's shop.

And, to rub it in, he loses the lot in a game of poker with arch-rival Mike Baldwin.

Coronation Street favourite Fred (John Savident, 64) plays for high stakes after starting a card school at the Rovers Return.

He soon finds himself in a tussle with knicker factory boss Mike (Johnny Briggs, 69).

Gauntlet

As other Corrie card sharks including mechanic Tommy Harris and Underworld manager Danny Baldwin (Bradley Walsh, 44) back out, Fred throws down the gauntlet when Mike offers to play him for a share of their businesses.

After a series of nail-biting poker hands, pub boss Fred loses and is left with a giant hangover.

A Corrie source said: "Fred is simply thunder-struck at his own folly."

"His son Ashley has no idea he's lost his inheritance and Fred has no idea how he is going to be break the news."

The poker game is the latest battle in a feud that erupted after Mike stole businessman Penny King from Fred.

During the first poker game, Tommy (Thomas

■ by LAURA NEIL

Craig, 42) loses his son's computer money and vows to win it back.

But in the rematch, it is Fred and Mike who go head-to-head.

The source added: "Fred wants to wipe the smirk off Mike's face."

"And he is stunned when Mike puts up his share of the factory

against the butcher's shop. Mike's cock-a-hoop when he wins and Fred's horrified as his old adversary starts making plans to alter the shop."

Fred is overcome by guilt but eventually has to confess to Ashley (Steven Arnold, 29).

"Viewers will be wondering whether this is the end of an era," said the source.



BLOODIED STAKE: Butcher Fred Elliott

It's Real Walford



WAL FOR ONE: The boys have a team hug after scoring. Inset, the Wanderers line-up

FOOTBALL fever sweeps through Walford as the EastEnders boys get down and dirty in their first match. Cheeky barman Alfie Moon (Shane Richie, 40) starts a new pub football team called the Walford Wanderers.

The Ferreira boys, Mickey Miller, Jules and Gus Smith, Minty, Gary Hobbs, and lazy dad Keith Miller band together to become the pride of the East End.

And whining Billy Mitchell (Perry Fenwick, 41) is the unlikely leader of the footballing wannabes.

Fans of the show can tune in on Thursday to watch the team's first match. But it's not just the boys that

by EMILY ROSE

are up to dirty tricks. Sexy Sasha Perkins (Jemma Walker, 27) and temptress Kareena Ferreira (Pooja Shah, 22) show their naughty side as they try to distract the opposition to help their boys win.

Meanwhile sexy Sam Hunter (Kim Medcalf, 30) will return from honeymoon to announce that she no longer regards herself as a Mitchell. Last night an insider said: "Sam is putting her husband Andy first."

"It's bound to end in tears. Sam's devotion to Andy could well put her life in danger."

OVER THE MOON: Alfie celebrates his side's goal



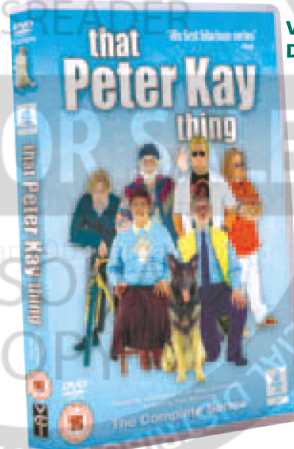
SEX PLOT: Sadie King

Romping Sadie's exposed

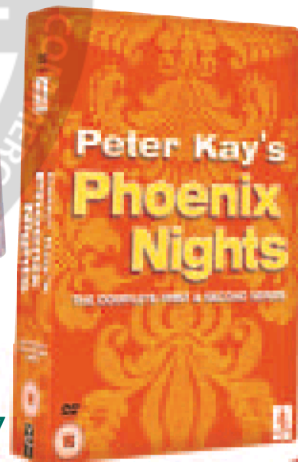
EMMERDALE seductress Sadie King will be facing sex-blackmail threats from village bad-boy Cain Dingle. Yobbo Cain (Jeff Hordley, 35) breaks into her home and finds the randy married woman is conducting a torrid affair with romeo-mechanic Robert Sugden (Karl Davis, 22).

And he'll do his utmost to spoil their lusty liaisons by demanding money and favours from blue-eyed sexpot Sadie (Patsy Kensit, 36).

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Flexibility

Rhett also loves the flexibility of the One account. It allows him to borrow cash against the value of the family home up to pre-agreed limits. "I can get at my cash whenever I want, within my overall spending limit, giving me total freedom," Rhett says. Any additional borrowing will be secured on your home, meaning an increase in repayments or an extension of the term depending on how you use the account.

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Rhett and Piera to pay off personal loans AND their credit cards. "We had the facility to clear everything with cash from the One account. Now our only debt is the mortgage, and the interest rate is really competitive." Typically you may find yourself paying higher rates for loans and credit card debt. But with a One account you'll pay one mortgage style interest rate on everything. Just remember that any additional debt will be secured on your home.

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The One account also lets you manage your mortgage your way. So long as you keep within your agreed borrowing limit and pay the account off by retirement, you can pay more some months and less in others.

Rhett was keen to reduce his mortgage as soon as possible, he says. "I really enjoyed seeing my mortgage debt fall every month." Reducing their mortgage allowed them to trade up to a larger property following the birth of their daughter Mia.

Bigger house

In August, they bought a four-bedroom townhouse in Church Langley. "We couldn't have afforded it without the One account," Rhett says. By combining their savings and overpaying each month, Rhett and Piera quickly reduced what they owed on their house. When they sold it they were able to use the equity to be able to afford their new house. "The One account has made our lives so much easier," Rhett says.



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CHARLIE CATCHPOLE

HE'S BRITAIN'S MOST SWITCHED-ON TELY CRITIC



Sopranos ends on a high note

ALL Due Respect was the title of the mesmerising finale to the fifth series of *The Sopranos* (Monday, C4). And as if to demonstrate – belatedly – their own respect for this modern masterpiece of American drama, Channel 4's schedulers moved the episode forward a whole 30 minutes, so that it finished not much after midnight.

Something about being grateful for small mercies springs to mind.

Hard core *Sopranos* fans who stayed the distance were rewarded with a story that was almost

Shakespearian (apart from the f-words) in its intensity, as Tony Soprano agonised over whether he should continue to protect his renegade cousin Tony B or hand him over to rival mobsters Johnny Sack and Phil Leotardo.

He gathered the gang and declared: "We are a family, and even in his f***ed-up day and age, that means something."

Silvio Dante saw things rather differently.

"With all due respect," he said "it's about you don't wanna eat s**t from Johnny, you don't wanna bow down. Frankly, you've got a problem with

authority. There's seven deadly sins, and yours is pride."

Tony's response was to explain, in his own colourful way, that it was lonely at the top.

He told Silvio: "With all due respect, you've got no f***ing idea what it's like to be Number One. Every decision you make affects every facet of every other f***ing thing. It's too much to deal with, almost. And in the end, you're completely alone with it."

After becoming engrossed in a History Channel documentary about Hitler's general Erwin Rommel, who the narrator said

had a sixth sense that enabled him to size up any situation to his advantage, Tony (James Gandolfini) went to the remote farmhouse where Tony B was hiding out and blew half his head away with a shotgun, without saying a word.

As ever, a chillingly bleak storyline was shot through with sudden bursts of terrific humour – a combination that completely eludes your average British crime series.



NUMBER ONE: Tony Soprano

BEST bits of 2D-TV (Monday, ITV1): The Rooneys as The Flintstones (Wayne was in bed with a slaposaurus).

Mobile phones playing ring tones auditioning for The X-Factor (the winning phone was nicked, prompting Simon Cowell to say: "Still, it was around longer than Gareth Gates").

And Osama bin Laden's workout video ("Let's put the fun into fundamentalism! It's a fatwa on fat!").

Someone somewhere probably found that one offensive.

I sincerely hope so, anyway.

Special Kay

PETER Kay – the backlash begins. People are already saying that *Max And Paddy's Road To Nowhere* (Friday, C4) isn't as funny as *Phoenix Nights* or that Peter Kay Thing.

(This is what's known in the music business as "third album syndrome".)

And they're absolutely right. It isn't. Not yet, anyway.

The first instalment of the adventures of Bolton's bone-headed nightclub doormen (aka Lord Love Rocket and his mongy mate Max), now trailing around the north-west in their camper van, was a scene-setter that sketched in the characters for the benefit of those few unfortunate souls who somehow missed out on *Phoenix Nights*.

So it wasn't packed with quite so many laugh-out-loud moments. It still made for a far, far funnier half-hour than any British sitcom I've seen since...well, since *Phoenix Nights*, come to think of it.

Trust me, it's going to be an exhilarating ride. You probably know this already, but Max (Kay) is naïve, overly sensitive and utterly useless with women.

Paddy (Kay's co-writer Patrick McGuinness) is brash, cocky, loud and absolutely certain that every female he meets who's under the age of 60 is simply gagging for it.

We first saw the odd couple dressed up as dancing bears, supposedly trying to attract customers to the White Cliffs Shopping Centre but actually carrying out a plan to steal a widescreen plasma TV for their mobile home (they got one, but it turned out not to have any speakers).

One of the advantages of watching anything by Peter Kay on video is that you can freeze-frame the tape and pick up on wonderful little sight gags that flash by otherwise unnoticed. For example the small print at the bottom



HAT'S MY GIRL: Peter scores in Max And Paddy's Road To Nowhere

CLANGER OF THE WEEK

IN *Lawless*, Trevor Eve as DI John Paxton jumped off Newcastle's Tyne Bridge and was next seen lying in the mud of the River Blyth. This meant he swam a good 15 miles through the North Sea. Wearing shoes, too.

Like Mrs S. Kirsopp of Prudhoe, Northumberland, you could win £50 by sending any gaffes you spot to TV Clangers, Daily Star, 10 Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6EN. Use a postcard, the back of a sealed envelope, fax to 0871 4347921 or e-mail charlie.catchpole@dailystar.co.uk

of a sign outside the shopping centre read: "Sterling, euros and immigration vouchers welcome." Kay does not do political correctness. Clumsily trying to win

over a blonde he met in a club, Max said: "I'm a bit of a romantic. I like a girl with special needs." Blonde: "Who is she?" Max: "Oh, no. I don't mean a girl with special

needs. I mean I like a girl to have special needs – wants." He tapped his head and burred: "I like a girl to have a bit up here, a bit more spirit. I'd like to take our relationship to a different level. A spirit level."

Max and Paddy were got up as sailors. Paddy had said girls loved men in uniform.

"Do they?" said Max, doubtfully. "Let's go out dressed as a couple of Nazis, then. See how far we get."

Paddy woke up minus his wallet. It transpired that the girls were con

artists who specialised in seducing sailors and robbing them.

They were known locally as the Belgrano Sisters. Work that one out for yourselves.

One scene alone was funnier than a month of French And Saunders – Paddy teaching Max to dance under the trees at a caravan park.

It included an inspired spoof of Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey cavorting in *Dirty Dancing* that made me laugh until I ached.

And finally, a word from the show's sponsors – wonderful radio Chorley FM.

Slogan: "Coming In Your Ears". Priceless.

PEEPING PERFECT

SEX-crazed but permanently frustrated Mark (David Mitchell) in the superb *Peep Show* (Friday, C4): "Sure, an orgy sounds great. "But you're basically just multiplying the number of people you're not going to be able to look in the eye afterwards."

CRAZY Rulers Of The World (Sunday, C4) showed how US special forces have used loud music as an instrument of torture – a cruel punishment that Neil Fox and Gabby Logan also inflicted on us during 90 minutes of *The*

Great British Pop Test (Saturday, ITV1). I fed the title into Anagram Genius on my computer. It came up with: "The best sharp ego trip tit" – a perfect description of Foxy.

MISSION IMPLAUSIBLE – Space Odyssey: Voyage To The Planets (Tuesday, BBC1). Tomorrow's World science meets Blake's Seven acting.

There's drama here, Jim. But not as we know it.

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COMPLIMENT OF THE WEEK

"GOOD looks are a curse. You and Ken should count yourselves very lucky." Blanche, bless her, to Deirdre in Coronation Street.

NICKY BYRNE EXCLUSIVE:

I wouldn't
the sort of

WESTLIFE star Nicky Byrne has a secret to confess - he's a fan of fluffy chick-lit.

The hot hunk even admits to shedding the odd tear when he gets to the end of a soppy girlie bit!

Mind you, there's only one author he reads when he fancies putting his feet up with a good book and a pint of the black stuff - and he's got good reason to be her No1 fan.

Family man Nicky is thrilled that his sister-in-law Cecilia Ahern, 21, has scored a big hit with her debut novel *P.S. I Love You*.

In fact the 26-year-old even skipped back to Dublin - taking a break from promoting Westlife's sixth album, a collection of Rat Pack covers called *Allow Us To Be Frank* - to support her book launch.

For him Cecilia is another talented woman in his life, in addition to his gorgeous wife Georgina, daughter of the Irish PM Bertie Ahern.

Nicky says: "Obviously, being a guy I'd never usually read chick-lit. But as it's Cecilia, I took her first book along on flights when I had a few hours to myself."

"Many times I had tears in my eyes and I had to cover up. There's me trying to be a hard lad, then that happens! But her story really touched me."

Pride

His confession is testament to the boyband pin-up's family loyalty. He unashamedly gushes with pride when talking about Georgina, 26, who he's been with for 10 years.

The pair married in France last year and have so far managed to avoid the pitfalls of showbiz marriages.

Nicky easily shrugs off any suggestion they may have wed too young. "I think it's cool being a husband at 26," he says.

"People say it's a bit young but when you've been with someone for a long time, you love them and know it's right, why wait any longer?"

"When I met Georgina at school, I went home and told my mum I'd met the girl I wanted to marry. I remember mum saying, 'OK son, but you're only 14'. I always knew Georgina was the one."

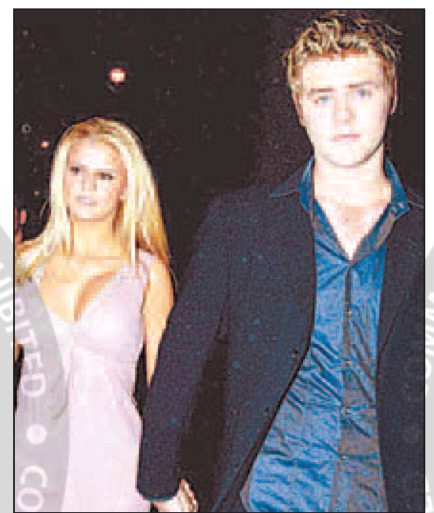
There's no doubt the loved-up couple make a perfect pair. Nicky is looking forward to being a dad but says he is keen that they enjoy a bit more time as just a couple before having kids.

Nicky continues: "When it happens that'll be the icing on the cake but it's not going to be in the near future."

"After seeing how difficult it was for Brian -



COUPLING: Nicky fell early for Georgina at school. Below, Brian McFadden and Kerry.



by KIM DAWSON

being in a band and having two kids - I wouldn't want that kind of pressure. Besides there are lots of things we'd like to do first. "If the band ended tomorrow, I'd take a holiday and just be selfish for a while."

Busy

Nicky sighs sadly when it comes to the subject of Brian McFadden's marriage breakdown.

He admits he's relieved he's found his soulmate in business graduate Georgina and is sure the same will never happen to them.

He says: "It's great that Georgina and I can balance our lives to be together. A lot of people have busy schedules and their relationships break up."

"We've never had time away from each other. It's

a difficult time for Brian. Kids are involved. I wouldn't wish that on anyone."

"I'm so happy that I'm not in his position. It was hard for him having children and travelling while Kerry's career took off."

"We would've hired a nanny to keep him in the band. You can't use the word impossible 'cos look at Ronan Keating, he's got two kids. Some people can do it. Brian and Kerry couldn't. It's very sad."

While Nicky is enjoying Westlife's new musical direction, Georgina has plans of her own. And one of them is whipping Nicky into shape.

He explains: "We're having a gym built at the house. When I played for Leeds, before Westlife, I did so much running and I miss that."

"Georgina's doing a fitness course and has her sights set on being a personal trainer. She can set her sights on me and give me muscles. When she gets

FAB FOUR:
The lads in Rat Pack garb



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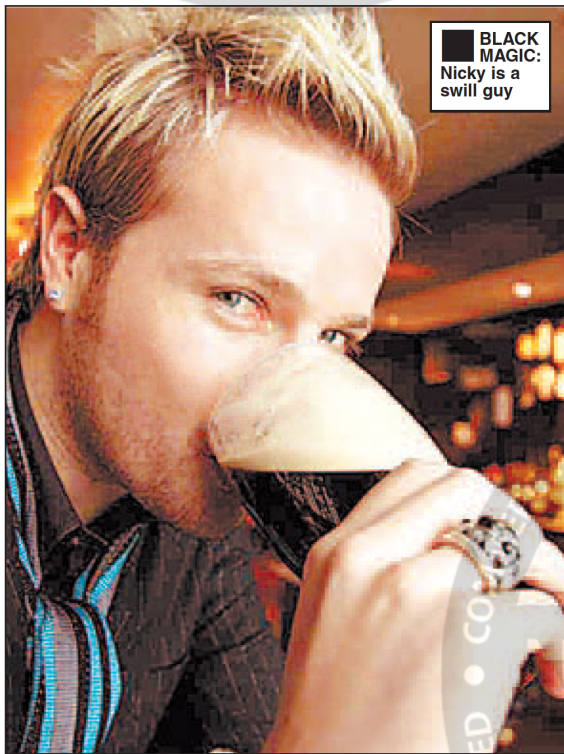
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WHY GEORGINA WILL ALWAYS BE THE GIRL FOR ME

put up with PRESSURE Brian had



BLACK MAGIC:
Nicky is a
swill guy



THE ONE AND ONLY:
Nicky is so happy as a husband

Pictures: JIM WALPOLE

me into the gym she'll certainly show me a thing or two.

"Georgina's also done some modelling and went down the catwalk at this year's London Fashion Week. I thought, 'Please God, don't let her fall.'"

"There's speculation that an English modelling company are interested in her. If the opportunity comes up, then she'll certainly look at it."

Risk

Nicky is as proud of his wife as he is of Westlife, who release a new live DVD this week.

He says: "The new album was a big risk for us. And this DVD celebrates our most successful and lucrative tour - we only had to split it four ways!"

"We filmed it at The Globe in Stockholm, one of the biggest venues in Europe, an 18,000 seater. I remember watching Take That do a concert in Berlin and that showed how big

they were across Europe. Sweden is where we recorded a lot of our songs, like *If I Let You Go*, *Obvious*, *Unbreakable*. It was a great tour - the first without Brian, so that was interesting. For us, it's a great tour to have turned into a DVD."

"Brian left on March 9 and we were going on stage on the 29th. It was fair that he went before the tour."

"It would've been disastrous if he'd done it. We never wanted to make it the Brian McFadden farewell tour. That would not have been fair on anyone."

"But we are thrilled with the results. It's a new direction for us - but one which is incredibly exciting. We all enjoy doing new things, it keeps you fresh. And this has worked out really well."

● *Allow Us To Be Frank and Westlife Live In Stockholm* are both on sale now.

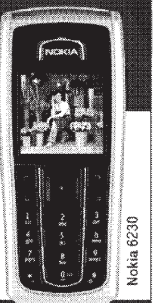


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HOMEBUYERS FIND BODY IN BEDROOM

■ by TARA FAWCETT
HORRIFIED home buyers found a decomposed body in a bedroom of their new house.

The man may have been dead for more than two years as neighbours had been complaining to the council about flies from the empty home since 2002.

Tests

But health officers refused to act because the house was privately owned. Now pathologists are running tests to find out who the mystery man was. His death is not being treated as suspicious.

The new owners bought the end terrace property in Erdington, Birmingham at auction. It is believed to have been empty for eight years and that the last occupant died in a nursing home.

But as they cleared the upstairs bedroom, workers uncovered the remains of a man.



SHOCK: The house of horror

believed to be in his fifties. One neighbour, who did not want to be named, said: "The property has been a nuisance for many years."

"The smell was overwhelming. The people who were living next door actually moved away because of it."

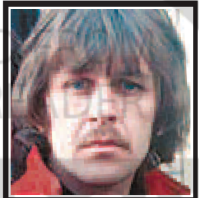
Spotted

"The property was sold at auction a few weeks ago and the vendors had been showing people around."

The shocked neighbour added: "It is hard to believe that no-one had spotted the body earlier."

It is thought the house was owned by the daughter of the couple who previously lived there. Bigwood Auctioneers sold it for £98,000 six weeks ago.

Auctioneer Arnold Shepherd said: "We had cleared the ground floor so buyers could enter the place and have a look around. We did notice a strong stench but assumed it was from dirt and debris."



FORTUNE: Carl Wayne

Carl's £1.4m legacy

ROCK star Carl Wayne left more than £1.4million to his actress wife Sue Hanson - who played Miss Diane in Crossroads.

Wayne, who sang with top Sixties group The Move, died aged 61 on August 31 after battling cancer.

The band's hit, *Flowers in the Rain*, was the first song played on Radio 1 on its launch in 1967.

Probate records reveal Wayne, of Woking, Surrey, left his entire estate to wife, Sue, 61. The couple had been married 30 years and have a 19-year-old son.

Hits

Sue's Crossroads character was best known for her friendship with woolly hat wearing simpleton Benny.

Wayne also had top 10 hits with I Can Hear The Grass Grow, Fire Brigade and Blackberry Way, which got to No1.

He became one of the UK's most in-demand singers and recorded countless sessions for the music and advertising industries worldwide.

In 1990, he was the narrator in Willy Russell's West End hit musical *Blood Brothers*. Ten years later, he joined a revived version of *The Hollies* and played his last gig a few weeks before his death.

■ A STRIPPER was hired by the family of Harold Richards to mark his 100th birthday. Ex-soldier Harold, from Fareham, Hants, said: "It was wonderful."

Drivers in dark

MOST car buyers don't know their rights against dodgy dealers.

New laws mean that garages must prove a vehicle did not have an "inherent fault" at the time of sale.

And, though dealers must sell a car of "satisfactory quality", a survey showed 73% of consumers were unaware of this.

The poll, by warranty company Warranty Direct, also revealed that only 10% of dealers explained the new laws to customers.

Analysis showed that, on average, 17.1% of owners reported a failure in the first six months.

IT'S VIAGRA-NILLA

THE Italians have brought out a dessert dubbed Viagra ice-cream because it has African herbs used to boost sexual prowess.



Bootyful Zara is a real winner

■ RACY royal Zara Phillips showed it's not just her tongue that's studded when she wore these sexy suede boots.

■ Rider Zara, 23, who dates rugby hero Mike Tindall, donned the knee-highs for a day at Cheltenham races.

■ The rebel daughter of Princess Anne, who famously had her tongue pierced, presented a trophy to a steeplechase winner.

Pictures: DAVID HARTLEY

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